

# The Builder.

## VOLUME II.

### TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In compliance with the wishes of very many of our Subscribers, we have had prepared a new for binding the copies of *THE BUILDER* in those who may be desirous of preserving them in uniform Volumes. These may be had on application at the office, at the price of Two Shillings; or our Publisher will undertake to collect bound at a charge of Three Shillings per Volume.

### THE BUILDER,

NO. XLVIII.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1844.

With the opening year, we may be expected to announce our future intended course of proceeding; and although only a child of a year's growth, and as may be supposed by some, still raddled about, yet would we, like the swathed form of the Etesian-wind-filled Nile, if not stripped of its mythological power, yet be deemed an infant of athletic promise, and shape are long, like the giant babe of Irish story; and, able to discuss with unbroken teeth our puerile baken-mests as may have been consumed by a few grid-irons, worked up amid our component levers, or by other like gentilements.

Long, long before our birth-day, had count been made of the urgent necessity on the part of the professions of architecture and building, of a sound, just, and cleanly vehicle for views, correspondence, and papers upon such subjects. We hope to see our columns assume such a vehicle. We are sure the prince of the noble, the architect with the workman, like appreciates the value of all practical matters relating to architecture and engineering; and by opening our pages according to its standard, we think the gentleman will not fail to contribute, nor the workman be loath to appear there in print. Hitherto the medical literature of architecture has been deemed of; for its comparatively confined circulation has not returned the outlay quite for the employment of high talent; nor has it assumed a lowliness of style, a looseness of diction, a kind of *anything-arian* consequence; and, if it needed rightful vigour, has made up by nerve of reproachful tongue and penny-mindedness; from this cause almost a rebuff of ability has hung aloof, and has no part in it, conscious that he could not therein without reaping a certain portion of repute.

But from the measures which we have taken for the avoidance of scandal in the literature of architecture, we trust an altered state of things will immediately commence.

We are determined that the balance of justice shall hang conspicuously over all our columns: facts shall be recorded, but no distorted opinions shall be ventured; good and natural taste shall be asserted; practical soundness shall everywhere drive out speculative pretence; genius we are determined to foster; but neither the malignant cunning of a depraved mind, nor the pitiless or unballasted flights of an imagination sublimated or distilled through the alembic of insanity, shall ever have place with us.

Our reviews of new works shall, to the best of our ability, record their beauties and recommend their good maxims; and where we shall have occasion of disapproval, we trust that in putting the student upon his guard against pernicious doctrines, we shall not, like the copper-smith, be ambitious of finishing off our work with marks of the hammer. Under such a determination we hope surely that authors and publishers feeling confidence in our fairness, will early send us copies of their productions, accompanied by such wood blocks as may be proper for giving our subscribers a just idea of the value of the works so reviewed by us.

And we make promise that in commencing a series of retrospective reviews of literary and graphic works on architecture, we shall direct the mind of the student to a ready course of technical knowledge, and lead him at once to the cream of those vast stores of information which lie scattered in the many volumes of our noble art. Finding more trouble in the search for and correct re-printing of one page of old literature than in the writing of ten of original matter, we trust that whenever we quote from other works, this will not be esteemed as occurring from plagiaristic idleness, but from the desire of not doing again, perhaps badly, that which has already been done well, and of leaving the due honour to the first who broached the subject. And we invite all who are acquainted with curious and valuable works and graphic illustrations of architecture, to favour us with a knowledge of them, in order that their merits may be duly known throughout the scientific world.

With regard to the correspondence which will in future be admitted in our pages, we beg to say we desire it be select, selected as to its propriety. If a workman address us or any correspondent, his address may have as much propriety as that of the finished gentleman;

born with equal clearness, one needs not to differ from the other in the essential quality of propriety, though they may in the degree of particular learning—the operative man being most learned in operative knowledge, and the gentleman-born holding the superiority in book-learning and speculative science.

Upon the subject of papers relating to architecture, both constructive and decorative, we have the brightest promise. Assistance of a very superior kind will be given to us; and but few months, or even weeks, will be required for marshalling our forces. Through society finding our integrity of purpose, we have every prospect of the portfolios of the antiquary, the architect, and the scientific and practical man, being opened; and we little doubt that from their vast stores, we shall have the power of selecting those gems of art and science after which the zealous of our profession thirst.

Declaring thus openly our sentiments and intentions, we have an assured hope that our views will be approved of by most of our readers, and will be seconded earnestly by very many of them holding rank in architecture, engineering, practical science, biography, archaeology, topography, and the fine arts generally.

### CLEANLINESS AMONG THE POOR.

*The Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle* thus graphically describes the difficulties that lie in the way of personal cleanliness among the poorer classes:—

"Bathing is at once a luxury, and a remedy for disease. One would think it a very easy matter to get the body immersed in hot, cold, or tepid water, and so it ought to be, but as matters stand, it is very difficult; so difficult, indeed, that it is practised only by few, and by these but seldom. In the summer season, no doubt, many bathe in the sea and in rivers; but, in general only a few plunges in the year are enjoyed in this way by such as enjoy the advantage at all. The great bulk of the population go unwashed, hands and face excepted, from year's end to year's end. And no wonder, think of the obstacles! A man begrimed with toll, or greasy with accumulated perspiration, feeling a desire to have a clean skin, begins to think of how he may accomplish the simple process of getting himself washed. Pent up by his occupation in the midst of a town, perhaps miles away from the sea, or any stream affording a sufficient depth of water, he can only on rare occasions find time to go the necessary distance. And when he does so, his difficulties are not at an end. He finds that the river banks are claimed as private property, and he is prohibited, under heavy penalties, from setting foot there. He may 'seek the sounding shore,' and snap his fingers at landed proprietors. There are no